

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 26-29 are independent. Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12-29 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention (Claims 12 and 25 have been amended as to form only; no new matter has been added).

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 13, 26 and 29; the changes made to those claims are believed not to affect the allowability of those claims..

Claims 1-12, 14-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,483,874 (Panusopone et al.).

(1) Claims 1, 14, 27

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image editing apparatus that comprises input means for inputting image data consisting of shape data and texture data, and separation means for separating the image data into the shape data and texture data. Also provided are shape manipulation means for transforming the shape data separated from the image data by the separation means so as to change a shape represented by the shape data, and texture manipulation means for transforming the texture data in conformity with result of transformation by the shape manipulation means.^{1/}

^{1/} It should be noted the term "transforming the shape data" includes changing the size of shape and deleting shape of an arbitrary object as shown in Fig. 4; it will of course be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of this or any other portion of the disclosed embodiments.

Among other important features recited in Claim 1, is separating image data into shape data and texture data, transforming the shape data and texture data separately wherein the texture data are transformed in conformity with transformed shape data.

Panusopone relates to separating image data into shape data and texture data (shape information and texture information, Fig. 2), and coding/decoding the shape data and texture data respectively (shape coding 210, texture coding 240, shape decoding 344 and texture decoding 346, Figs. 2 and 3). The Office Action asserts that the coding/decoding arrangements of *Panusopone* correspond to the shape data manipulation means and texture data manipulation means of Claim 1. Applicant notes, however, that *Panusopone* appears merely to teach coding and decoding the shape and texture data respectively; nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Panusopone* that would teach or suggest changing a shape represented by shape data, and transforming texture data in conformity with such transformed shape data, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least this reason, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Panusopone*.

Independent Claims 14 and 27 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are deemed allowable over *Panusopone* for the same reasons as is Claim 1.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to an image editing apparatus for editing object image data consisting of shape data and texture data. The apparatus of Claim 7 comprises first manipulation means for transforming shape data based upon a user operation so as to change a shape represented by the shape data, and first display means for

presenting a display of the shape data that reflects the transformation performed by the first manipulation means. Also provided are second manipulation means responsive to a predetermined operation, for transforming corresponding texture data in conformity with the manipulation of this shape data.

Among other important features of the aspect of the invention recited in Claim 7 (in addition to that discussed above with regard to Claim 1), is presenting a display of the shape data that reflects the transformation performed by the first manipulation means. By virtue of the latter feature, a user can quickly confirm the manipulation result, since the transformation performed on the shape data is reflected quickly.

Claim 7, and corresponding method and storage medium Claims 20 and 28, are deemed allowable over *Panusopone* for both reasons.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 29 296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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